DC UNIVERSE REBIRTH

MR. OZ'S IDENTITY REVEALED!

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DISCOVER THE TRUTH IN THIS 5-PART STORY BEGINNING IN #987

WRITTEN BY
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ART BY
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SUPERMAN ACTION COMICS

THE OZ EFFECT

SEPT

Features lenticular motion covers by Nick Bradshaw

DC
DARK NIGHTS
1
METAL
Scott Snyder
Greg Capullo
Jonathan Glapion
fco Plascencia
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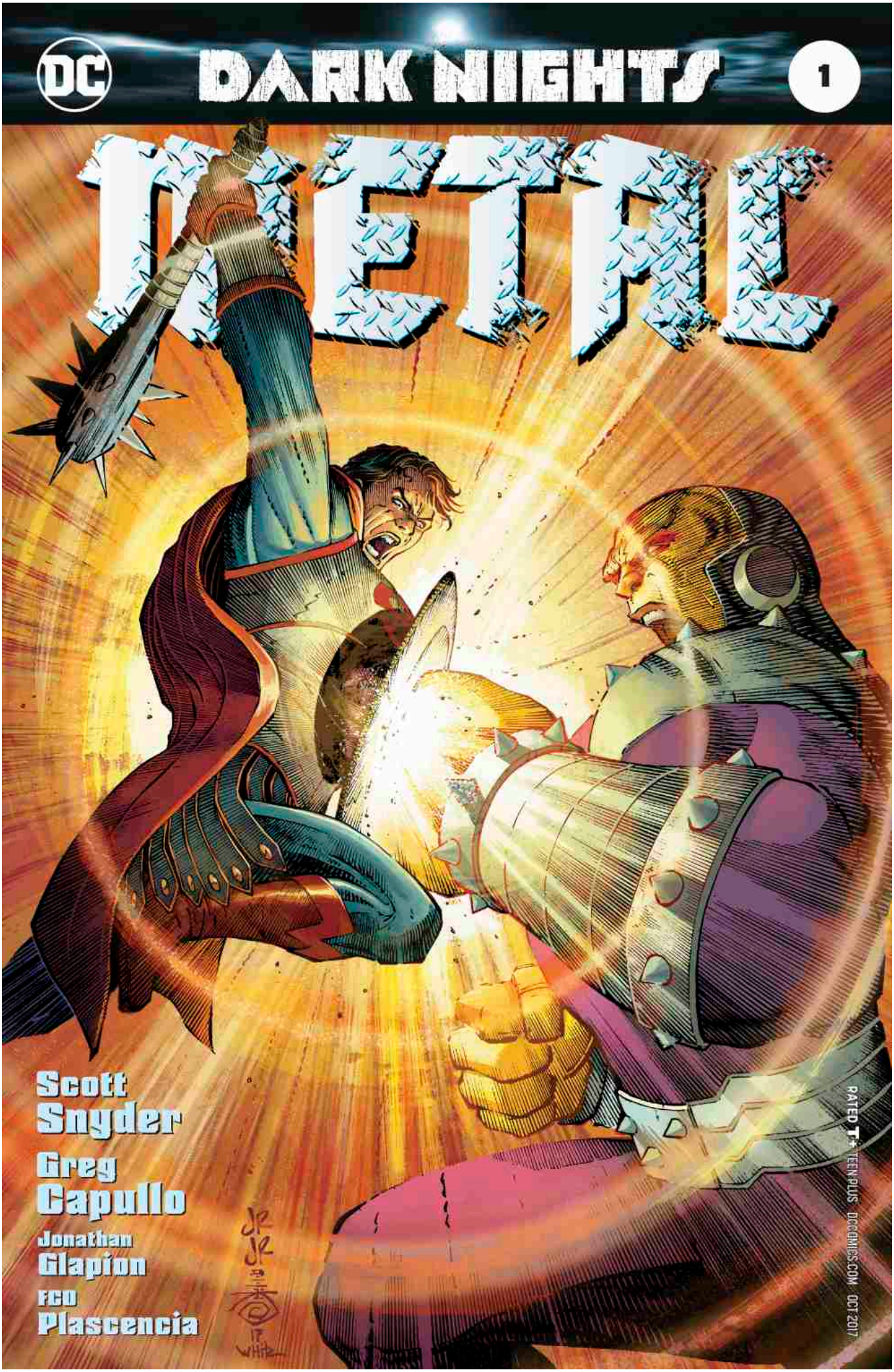
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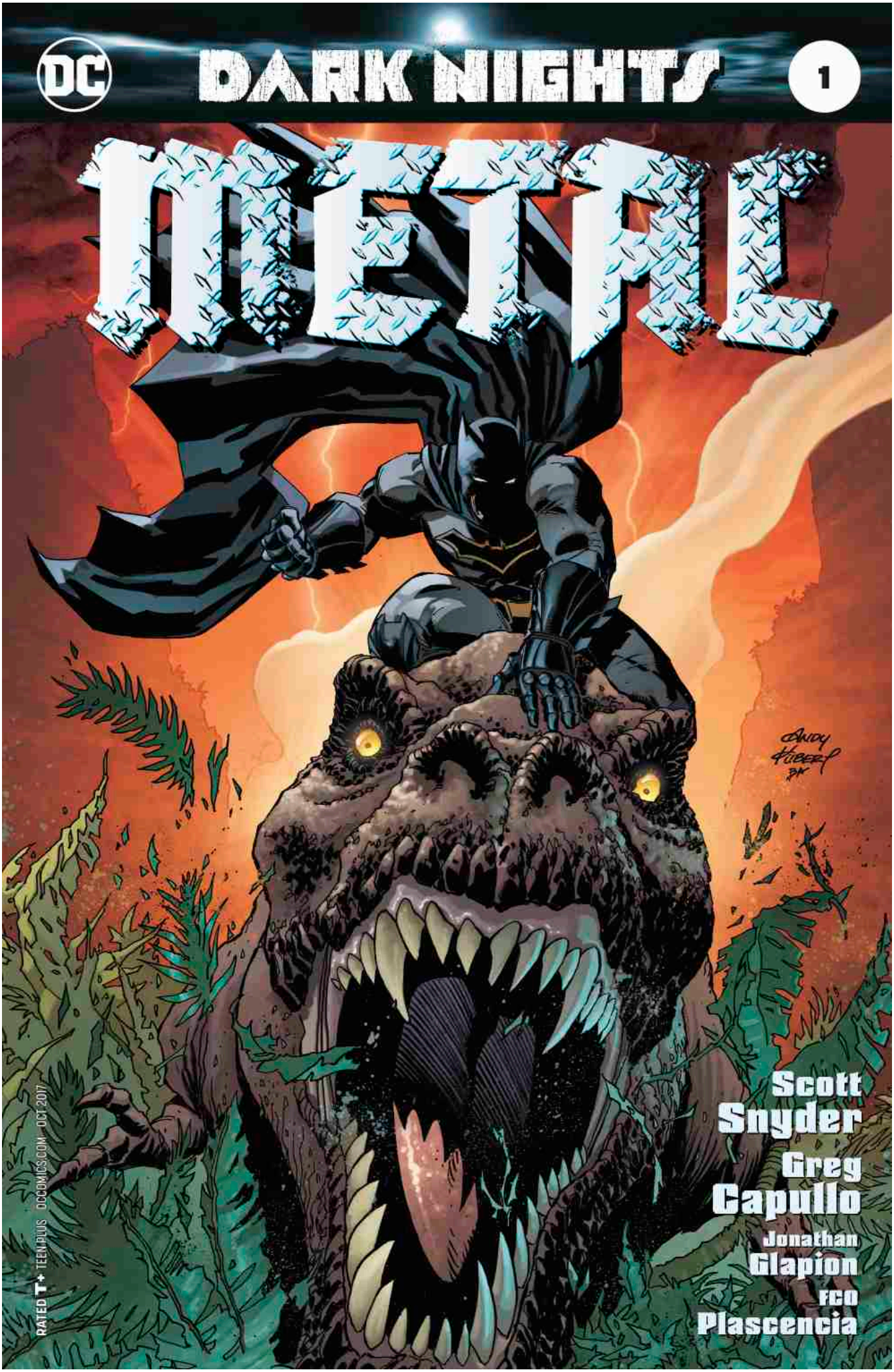
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DC

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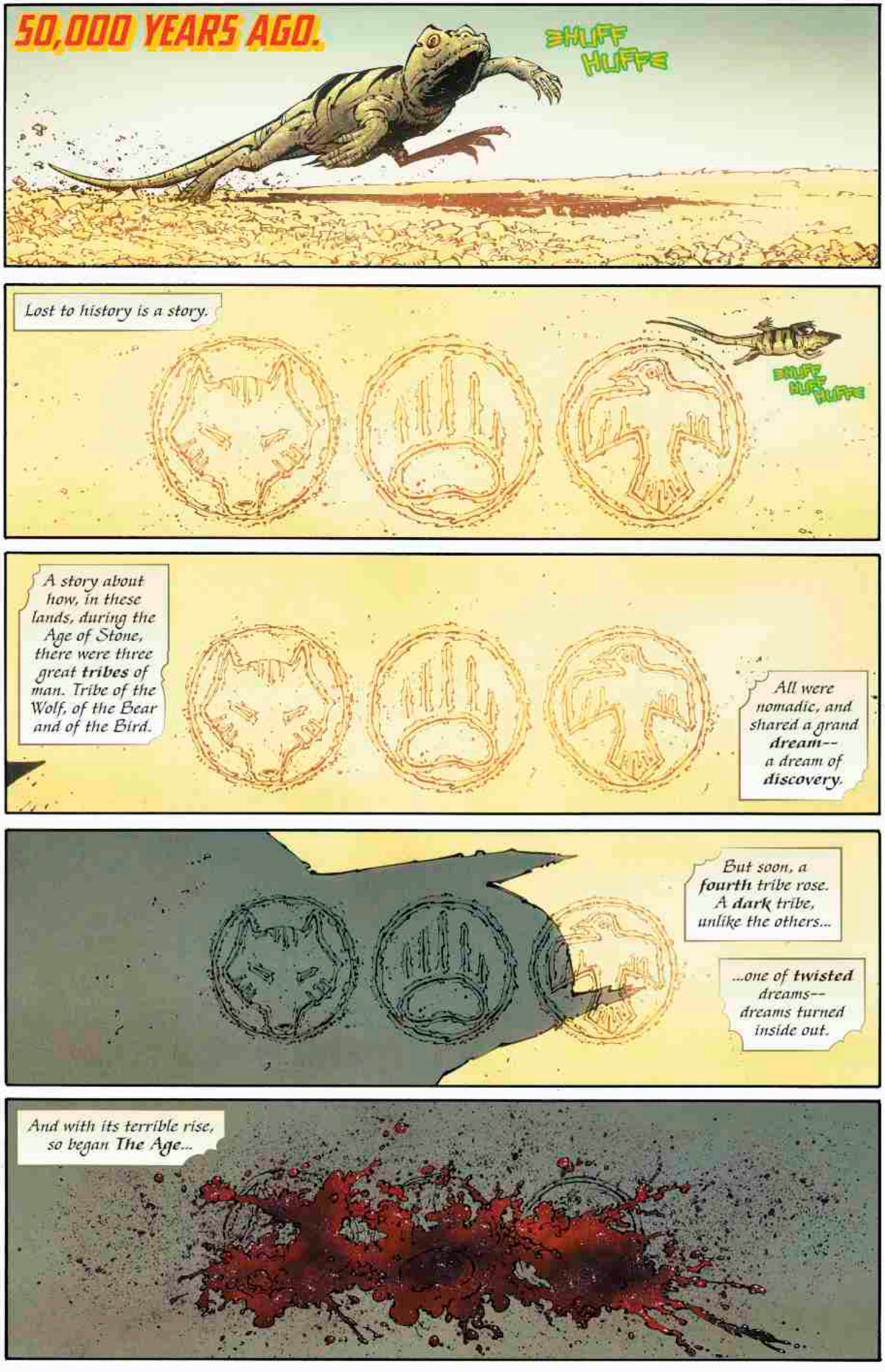
50,000 YEARS AGO.
HUFF HUFF
Lost to history is a story.
HUFF HUFF HUFF
A story about how, in these lands, during the Age of Stone, there were three great **tribes** of man. Tribe of the Wolf, of the Bear and of the Bird.
All were nomadic, and shared a grand **dream**-- a dream of **discovery**.
But soon, a **fourth** tribe rose. A **dark** tribe, unlike the others...
...one of **twisted** dreams-- dreams turned inside out.
And with its terrible rise, so began **The Age**...

...of Metal.
RIGHT NOW.
BEHOLD! YOUR MIGHTY JUSTICE LEAGUE...
"MIGHTY." HA! WHAT DEATH DESIGN SHOULD THEY FACE NEXT? SOMETHING SPECIAL, EH?
IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE. MONGUL WAS BEING KEPT UNDER WATCH BY THE BRAALIANS AFTER HIS FIGHT WITH GENERAL ZOD. HOW HE BUILT A NEW WAR MOON...
FOCUS, BATMAN. WHAT WE NEED TO DO IS FIGURE A WAY OUT OF HERE.
WHAT WE NEED TO DO IS WIN.

JUST LOOK AT THEM. HOBBLED SO EASILY! MADE *WEAK* BY THE VERY ARMOR I FASTENED TO THEM!
TAKE NOTE, FRIENDS! ALL YOU NEED IS THE DUST OF A FEW THOUSAND CRUSHED *RED SUNS*...
...SOME *VIBRATION-DOMINATION* BOOTS FROM OUR FRIENDS THE *DOMINATORS*...
...A *LOCK* FROM STHENO, THE ELDER GORGON, VENOM INFUSED...
...A FEW MORE TRINKETS FOR THE REST, AND SUDDENLY THESE "HEROES" ARE FORCED TO FIGHT FOR REAL, EH?!
SO WHAT SHALL THEY BATTLE?! LET'S ASK MY FAVORITE RESIDENT SLAVE, MR. HIRO, THE *TOYMAN!* NOW SPEAK UP, BOY! WHAT COMES THROUGH MY GATES?!
I CALL IT *FULCUM ABOMINUS.*
HAHA!
FULCUM ABOMINUS.
IIII LOVE IT! AND NOW, MY FRIENDS, IT'S THAT TIME!
TIME...
TO...
GO TO WAR!
GO TO WAR!

YES, WAR! SO ENTER, FULCUM ABOMINUS!
RRRRR
SCREEEE
AND... WE'RE FULC'D.
LEAGUE! AEGEA FORMATION! NOW!
HA! LOOK AT THEM! HOPING TO ESCAPE MONGUL'S PIT! TRYING TO RUN! WHAT DO WE SAY TO THAT?
DO NOT RUN! PAIN IS FUN!
NOW, LET THE BATTLE... BEGIN!
DO NOT RUN! PAIN IS FUN!

CYBORG, CAN YOU HACK THEIR--
ALREADY TRIED. THEY'RE EACH BUILT TO OUR SPECIFIC-- AARGH!

AQUAMAN, WE NEED THESE WHEEL CHOCKS OFF! THIS GAUNTLET'S MICRO BLACK HOLE IS KILLING MY RING'S-- WHOA!
I'M AT HALF STRENGTH, TOO, GREEN LANTERN. THESE BLASTED SLEEVES...
...SOME KIND OF PIT GLASS FROM THE FIRES OF APOKOLIPS... THE HEAT...
WONDER WOMAN, MAYBE =UNH= THE BEASTS CAN BE TRICKED INTO BREAKING THIS ARMOR OFF US!

WELL, MINE HAS A CASSANDRA ENGINE. EVERY MOVE I MAKE...
SUPERMAN, CAN YOU...?
ALREADY TRYING!
CLANG
BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA

NO GO! THEY AVOID THE ARMOR! AGH! THEY ONLY GO FOR THE FLESH!

KRANG
STILL, THEY'RE JUST MACHINES! THEY HAVE TO HAVE A WEAKNESS!

EVERYONE, BACK IN FORMATION WHILE WE STRATEGIZE! IPHITO THIS TIME!
-:UNH:- AFFIRMATIVE, BACK TO...
...FORMATION.
HH.
BATMAN, FORMATION! WHAT ARE YOU--
PLAYING A HUNCH!
THAT'S RIGHT! COME ON! OPEN UP, YOU PIECE OF--
SCREEEE
HEH.
EVERYONE! FOLLOW MY LEAD!
YOUR LEAD?! BUT--
JUST DO IT, FLASH!
COME ON. COME ON. COME...
BOOP

CRUNCH
ARRGH!
EITHER WE HELP HIM, OR HE'S GONNA NEED YOUR OLD HARPOON HAND*--WE HAVE TO MOVE NOW!
I'M TOO SLOW WITH THESE BOOTS. I'LL COVER YOU!
ALL RIGHT. GOING IN THREE...TWO ...ON--
*SEE THE 90S. -EDDIE & TAY
NO!
I SAID -UNH!- FOLLOW MY LEAD, DAMMIT!

"THERE ARE SYMBOLS...
"...INSIDE THE MOUTHS!
"ACTIVATE THEM NOW!
"HOWEVER YOU CAN!"
AND THEN?
"AND THEN LET THEM EAT YOU!"
YOU HEARD HIM! THEN LET THEM--
--WAITWHAT?
ARGH!
SEE, THIS IS WHY WE VOTE ON STRATEGY!
GOOD PLANS? THEY DON'T HURT THIS MUCH! IT'S TEARING INTO MY--
AAAH!
QUIET, CYBORG.

LISTEN TO ME. BE CALM. LET IT HAPPEN. IT'S ALL IN THE NAME. FULCUM ABOMINUS. ABOMINUS, LIKE SOMETHING THAT DEFIES THE ORDER OF THINGS...
...AND FULCUM FROM THE LATE ROMAN PERIOD. A WARRIOR FORMATION CRY MADE FROM DEEP IN THE THROAT, A CALL TO LOCK SHIELDS.
TOYMAN WAS GIVING US A CLUE. HIS WAY OUT OF THIS...A TRICK HE PLAYED ON MONGUL.
WHAT TRICK?! WHY ARE THESE THINGS ABSORBING US?
I KNOW THIS CRY. IT MEANS "COME TOGETHER AS ONE."
COME TOGETHER AS ONE WHAT? MEAL?!
ONE WARRIOR.
BRUCE, PLEASE TELL ME YOU'RE KIDDING.
HEH. PLEASE TELL ME YOU'RE NOT?
BECAUSE IF WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS WHAT I THINK YOU'RE SAYING...
THE CROWD WANTS WAR...

...LET'S GIVE THEM WAR.
BOOYAH!
NO... NOT NOW!
AW, LOOK AT MONGUL, TRYING TO RUN. WHAT DO WE SAY TO THAT?
DO NOT RUN! PAIN IS FUN!
WAIT, WHY DO I HAVE TO BE THE FOOT?
SIMPLE, BARRY. SO YOU CAN KICK HIS--

METAL
A DC COMICS EVENT

Scott "Doom Commander" Snyder Script

Greg "Pain Bringer" Capullo Pencils

Jonathan "Guillotine" Glapion Inks

FCO "Killer" Plascencia Colors

Steve "The Slayer" Wands Letters

Capullo, Glapion & Plascencia Cover

Jim "Jackknife" Lee, Scott "Skull Collector" Williams
& Alex "Assassin" Sinclair Variant Cover

Andy "The Carnage" Kubert
& Brad "Bonebreaker" Anderson Variant Cover

John "Damage" Romita Jr., Danny "Destruction"
Miki & Dean "Decimator" White Variant Cover

Eddie "Berserker" Berganza
& Rebecca "The Wrath" Taylor Editors

Dave "BloodBath" Wielgosz Assistant Editor

Superman created by Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster.

By special arrangement with the Jerry Siegel family.

Batman created by Bob Kane with Bill Finger.

Special thanks to Mark "Mayhem" Doyle

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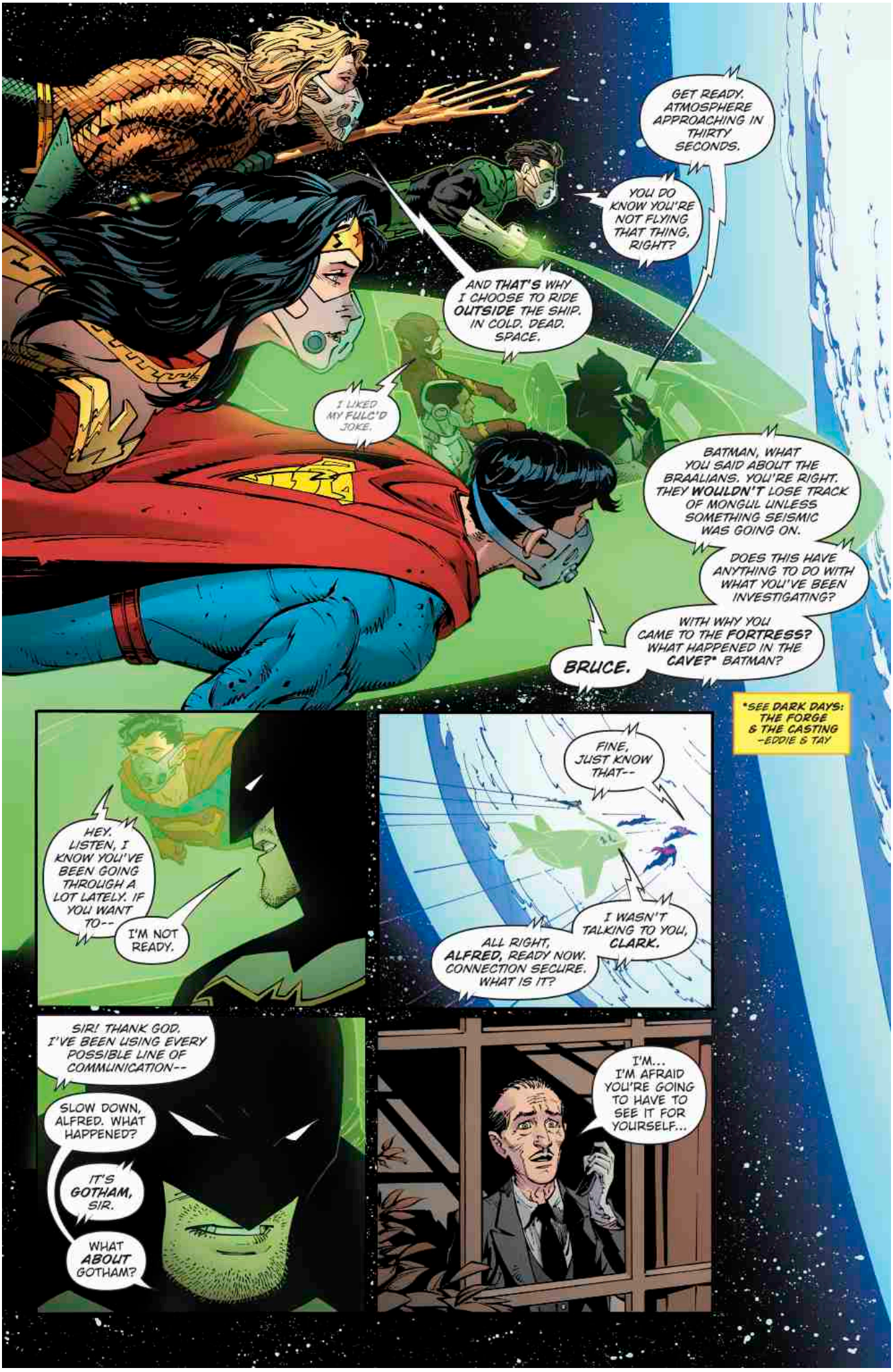
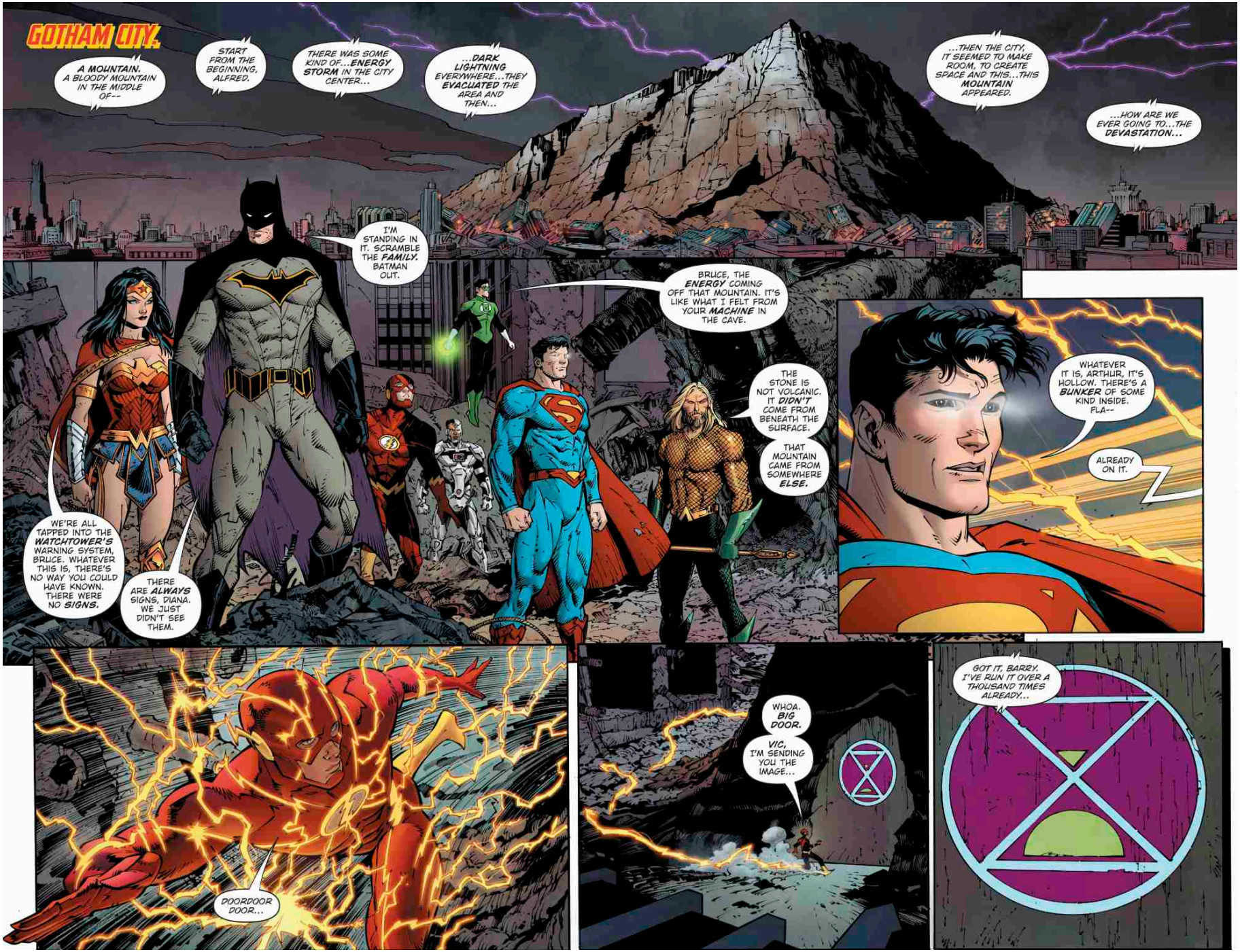

GET READY. ATMOSPHERE APPROACHING IN THIRTY SECONDS.
YOU DO KNOW YOU'RE NOT FLYING THAT THING, RIGHT?
AND THAT'S WHY I CHOOSE TO RIDE OUTSIDE THE SHIP. IN COLD. DEAD. SPACE.
I LIKED MY FULC'D JOKE.
BATMAN, WHAT YOU SAID ABOUT THE BRAALIANS. YOU'RE RIGHT. THEY WOULDN'T LOSE TRACK OF MONGUL UNLESS SOMETHING SEISMIC WAS GOING ON.
DOES THIS HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH WHAT YOU'VE BEEN INVESTIGATING?
BRUCE.
WITH WHY YOU CAME TO THE FORTRESS? WHAT HAPPENED IN THE CAVE?* BATMAN?
*SEE DARK DAYS: THE FORGE & THE CASTING -EDDIE & TAY
HEY. LISTEN, I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN GOING THROUGH A LOT LATELY. IF YOU WANT TO--
I'M NOT READY.
FINE, JUST KNOW THAT--
I WASN'T TALKING TO YOU, CLARK.
ALL RIGHT, ALFRED, READY NOW. CONNECTION SECURE. WHAT IS IT?
SIR! THANK GOD. I'VE BEEN USING EVERY POSSIBLE LINE OF COMMUNICATION--
SLOW DOWN, ALFRED. WHAT HAPPENED?
IT'S GOTHAM, SIR.
WHAT ABOUT GOTHAM?
I'M... I'M AFRAID YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO SEE IT FOR YOURSELF...

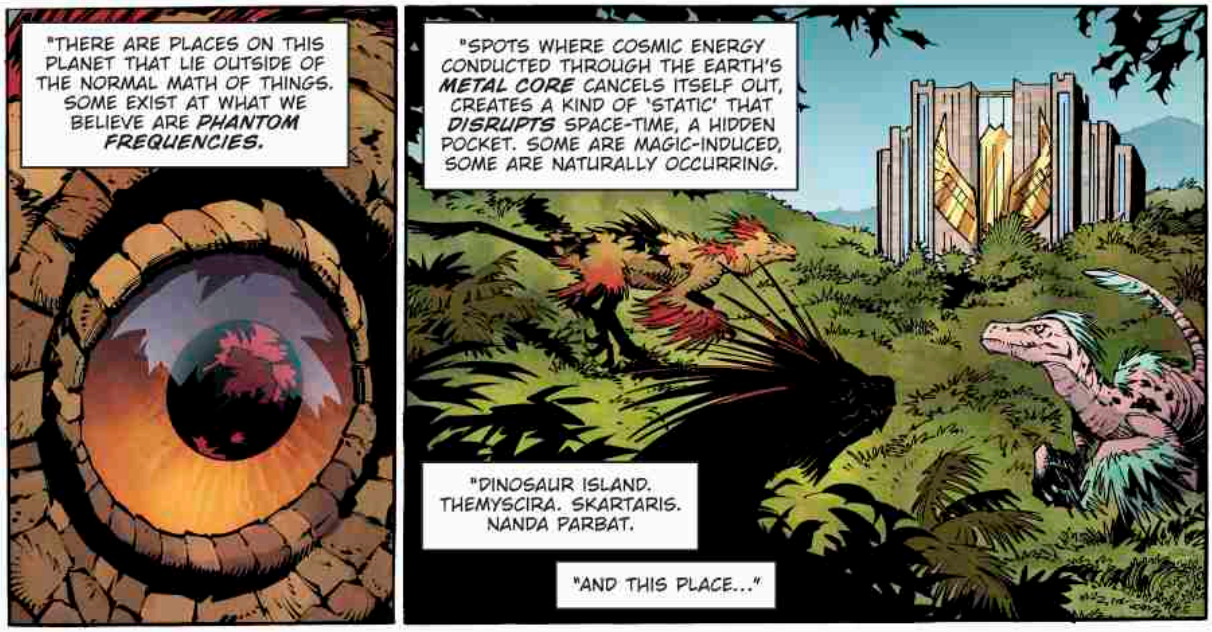

GOTHAM CITY.
A MOUNTAIN. A BLOODY MOUNTAIN IN THE MIDDLE OF--
START FROM THE BEGINNING, ALFRED.
THERE WAS SOME KIND OF...ENERGY STORM IN THE CITY CENTER...
...DARK LIGHTNING EVERYWHERE...THEY EVACUATED THE AREA AND THEN...
...THEN THE CITY, IT SEEMED TO MAKE ROOM, TO CREATE SPACE AND THIS...THIS MOUNTAIN APPEARED.
...HOW ARE WE EVER GOING TO...THE DEVASTATION...
I'M STANDING IN IT. SCRAMBLE THE FAMILY. BATMAN OUT.
BRUCE, THE ENERGY COMING OFF THAT MOUNTAIN. IT'S LIKE WHAT I FELT FROM YOUR MACHINE IN THE CAVE.
THE STONE IS NOT VOLCANIC. IT DIDN'T COME FROM BENEATH THE SURFACE.
THAT MOUNTAIN CAME FROM SOMEWHERE ELSE.
WE'RE ALL TAPPED INTO THE WATCHTOWER'S WARNING SYSTEM, BRUCE. WHATEVER THIS IS, THERE'S NO WAY YOU COULD HAVE KNOWN. THERE WERE NO SIGNS.
THERE ARE ALWAYS SIGNS, DIANA. WE JUST DIDN'T SEE THEM.
WHATEVER IT IS, ARTHUR, IT'S HOLLOW. THERE'S A BUNKER OF SOME KIND INSIDE. FLA--
ALREADY ON IT.
DOORDOOR DOOR...
WHOA. BIG DOOR.
VIC, I'M SENDING YOU THE IMAGE...
GOT IT, BARRY. I'VE RUN IT OVER A THOUSAND TIMES ALREADY...

"...BUT IT KEEPS COMING UP 'UNKNOWN.'"
MAN, LOOK AT ALL THIS...WHAT IS IT, SOME KIND OF LABORATORY?
POSSIBLY. THE TECHNOLOGY IS STRANGE, THOUGH. OUTDATED IN MATERIALS, BUT ADVANCED IN DESIGN.
IF YOU THINK THAT'S STRANGE...GL IS RIGHT. THIS WHOLE PLACE IS CRACKLING WITH SOME KIND OF ENERGY MY SENSORS CAN'T QUANTIFY. IT'S LIKE...OFF THE ELECTROMAGNETIC SPECTRUM...
MAYBE THERE ARE ANSWERS INSIDE THAT. LOOK.
HUH. THAT'S TITANIUM ALLOY. MUST BE SOME KIND OF SPACE POD...?
BUT THERE ARE NO ENGINES FOR FLYING. WHICH BEGS THE QUESTION AGAIN...
"...WHAT THE HELL IS THIS PLACE?"
THIS MUST BE THE CORE. I CAN FEEL THE ENERGY COMING OFF IT MYSELF.
ME TOO. MY GOD, THERE ARE PEOPLE IN THERE. FIVE OF THEM. AND THEY'RE ALIVE? IN SOME KIND OF CRYO...WE HAVE TO--
WAIT. CYBORG IS RIGHT. THE READINGS ARE TROUBLING. WE NEED TO KNOW WHAT THIS PLACE IS FIRST.
HAL, THIS ENERGY...IT'S SCARING ME. YOU SAID YOU FELT SOMETHING LIKE IT IN THE CAVE?
THIS IS WAAAAAY WORSE. IT'S--
GETTING STRONGER BY THE SECOND. I FEEL IT.
THIS ANDROID...IF I CAN ACTIVATE HIM, WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO FIGURE OUT WHAT'S GOING ON HERE AND WHERE THESE GUYS HAVE BEEN.
WELL, WHEREVER THEY WERE...

...IT WASN'T GOOD. LOOK.
It's Chasing us
RUN
STOP! YOU, THERE!
STEP AWAY FROM THE C-POD! NOW!
AND WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?
SHE'S CALLED LADY BLACKHAWK.
SHE RUNS THE BLACKHAWKS, SOME KIND OF DAMN COVERT ANTI-APOCALYPTIC TEAM. THEY'VE BEEN WATCHING ME, I'VE BEEN WATCHING THEM. LEARNING THEIR SECRETS.*
BELIEVE ME, THERE'S PLENTY YOU STILL DON'T KNOW.
AND WHY SHOULD I LISTEN TO YOU?
BECAUSE I'M NOT JUST LADY BLACKHAWK, BATMAN...
*SEE ALL-STAR BATMAN #6-9 -EDDIE & TAY

...MY NAME IS KENDRA SAUNDERS.
AND YOU DON'T KNOW ME, BUT I KNOW ALL OF YOU.
SO I NEED YOU COME WITH ME NOW.
COME WITH YOU? THERE'S A CITY OUTSIDE, BROKEN. THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE TERRIFIED. YOU MIGHT NOT HEAR THEM BUT I CAN.
BESIDE, HOW DO WE KNOW THIS ISN'T THE START OF SOMETHING BIGGER?
IT IS, FLASH. THIS IS THE FIRST SHOT FIRED...
...OF A FULL SCALE INVASION.
ONE THAT'S BEEN PLANNED FOR CENTURIES.
BY WHO?
I WON'T SPEAK THE NAME HERE. IT'S TOO DANGEROUS. FOR THE CITY...MAYBE FOR THE WHOLE WORLD. BUT IF YOU COME WITH ME...

SOUTH PACIFIC.
"...I'LL SHOW YOU EVERYTHING I KNOW."


"THERE ARE PLACES ON THIS PLANET THAT LIE OUTSIDE OF THE NORMAL MATH OF THINGS. SOME EXIST AT WHAT WE BELIEVE ARE PHANTOM FREQUENCIES.
"SPOTS WHERE COSMIC ENERGY CONDUCTED THROUGH THE EARTH'S METAL CORE CANCELS ITSELF OUT, CREATES A KIND OF 'STATIC' THAT DISRUPTS SPACE-TIME, A HIDDEN POCKET. SOME ARE MAGIC-INDUCED, SOME ARE NATURALLY OCCURRING.
"DINOSAUR ISLAND. THEMYSCIRA. SKARTARIS. NANDA PARBAT.
"AND THIS PLACE..."

...BLACKHAWK ISLAND.
YOU SPOKE OF AN INVASION, KENDRA. YOU PROMISED TO TELL US WHO WAS BEHIND IT. EVERY MINUTE WE SPEND IN THIS PLACE--
THIS PLACE IS YOUR ONLY HOPE, SUPERMAN.
FOR MANY YEARS, IT WAS A BASE OF OPERATIONS FOR A GREAT DETECTIVE OF HISTORY...A HERO NAMED CARTER HALL...
HAWKMAN.
OUR STORY SOUNDS CRAZY, BUT THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO, HE AND I WERE STABBED WITH A DAGGER OF A MYSTERIOUS SUBSTANCE AND ENTERED A CYCLE OF REINCARNATION THAT SPANNED HISTORY.
FOR MANY LIVES, WE FOUGHT TOGETHER AS PARTNERS, PROTECTING THE WORLD FROM EVIL... BUT CARTER NEVER STOPPED SEARCHING FOR ANSWERS ABOUT THE MATERIAL THAT STARTED THE WHOLE CYCLE.
NTH METAL.
THIS FRAGMENT IS ONE OF THE LAST PURE PIECES LEFT IN THE UNIVERSE.
IT'S THE ONLY MATERIAL CAPABLE OF GIVING VASTLY DIFFERENT POWERS TO THOSE WHO POSSESS IT. ETERNAL LIFE. FLIGHT. MYSTICAL VISION...IT DEFIES ALL RULES OF SCIENCE AND MAGIC.
AND AT CERTAIN TIMES, IT SEEMS TO BROADCAST A STRANGE KIND OF ENERGY.

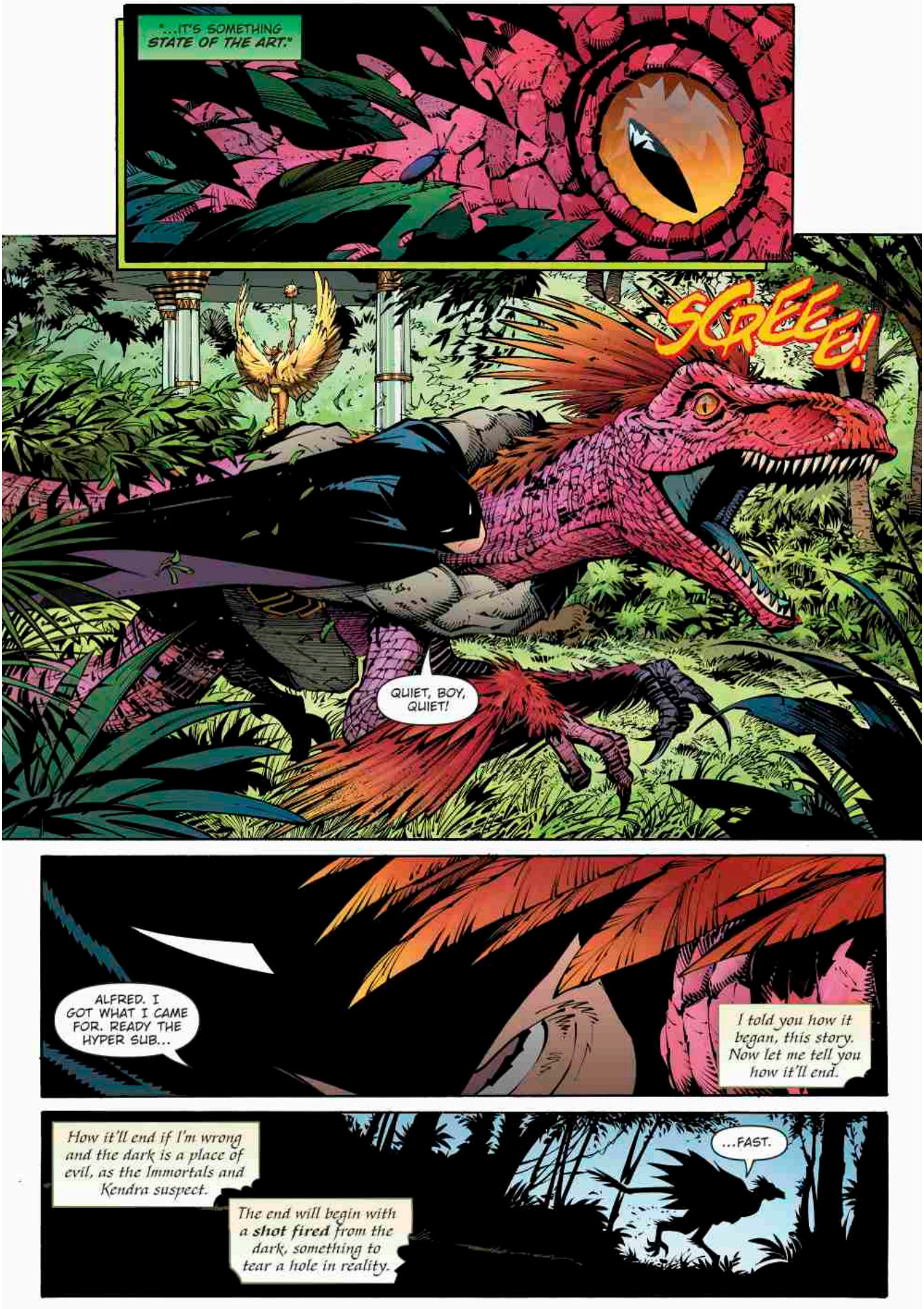
LIKE WE FELT IN THAT MOUNTAIN.
YES. CARTER CAME TO BELIEVE THAT NTH METAL WAS FROM SOMEWHERE BEYOND OUR COSMOLOGY. HE SEARCHED FOR CLUES ABOUT ITS ORIGINS IN HISTORY, FOLKLORE...
WHAT HE FOUND WERE WARNINGS, CLAIMS THAT THE METAL CAME FROM EVIL AND LEAD TO EVIL, BUT CARTER WOULDN'T ACCEPT IT.
OVER THE YEARS, HE RECRUITED THE BEST PEOPLE HE COULD FIND TO HELP HIS SEARCH...PILOTS. HEROES.
INVENTORS.
ADVENTURERS WHO WOULD CHALLENGE THE UNKNOWN WITH HIM.
CY, YOU'RE SHAKING.
THAT ENERGY. IT'S EVEN WORSE HERE. SOMETHING'S GETTING CLOSER.
WE FOUGHT OVER IT, HE AND I. BUT NOT LONG AGO, HE FELT HIS TEAM WAS READY TO GET ANSWERS.
TO TRAVEL TO THE OTHER SIDE.
STOP BEING CRYPTIC. WHAT ARE YOU GETTING AT, KENDRA?

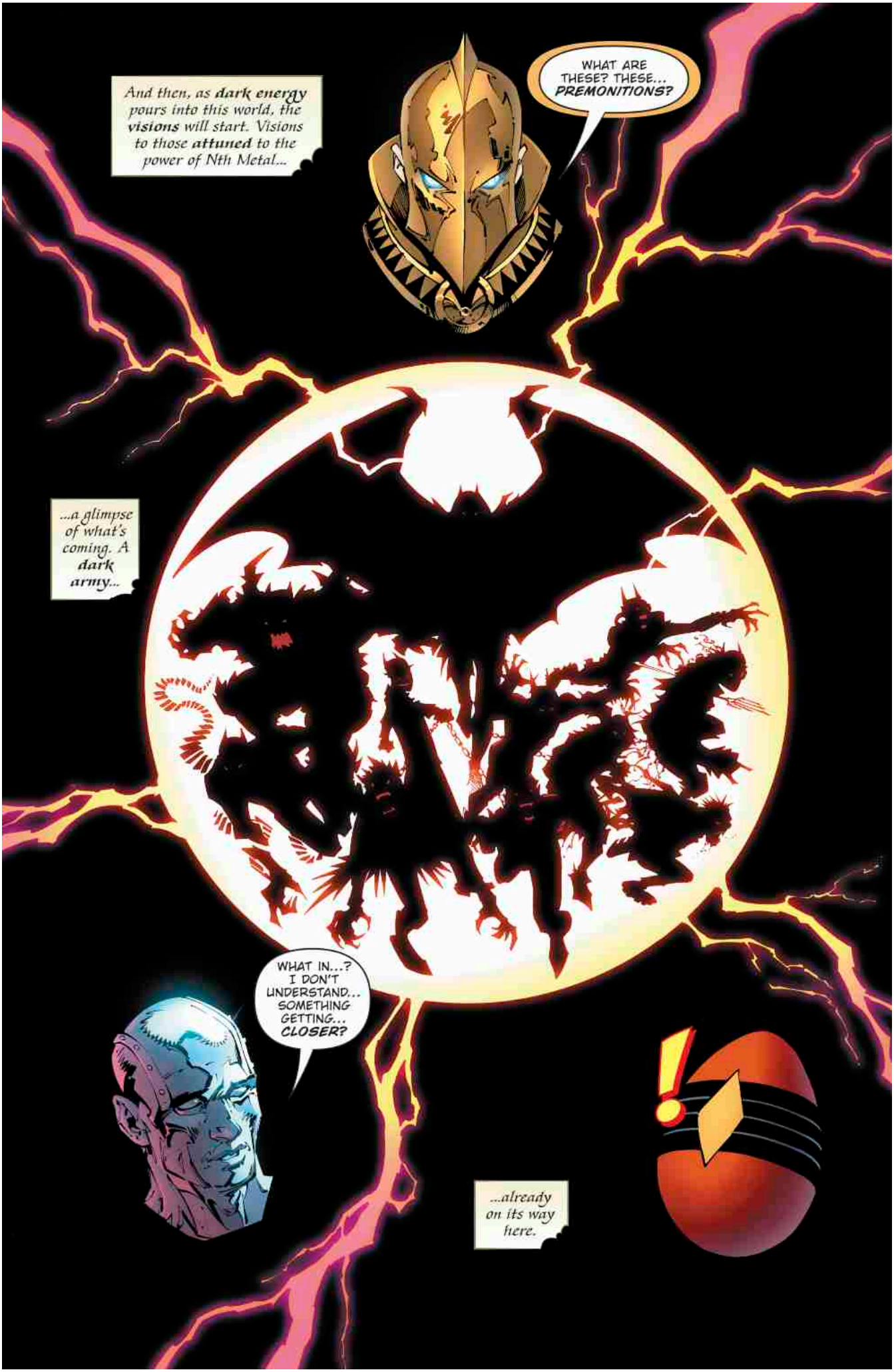
THIS IS A MAP OF WHAT WE BELIEVE TO BE OUR MULTIVERSE. NOT JUST OUR UNIVERSE, BUT ALL THE UNIVERSES MADE OF MATTER AND ANTIMATTER IN EXISTENCE. WE KNOW OF FIFTY-TWO. WE BELIEVE IT TO BE A SET NUMBER.
MONITOR SPHERE
THE PINNACLE
NEW GENESIS
BOOK OF ETERNITY
BUT THE ENERGY COMING THROUGH NTH METAL--CARTER COULDN'T TRACE IT TO ANY KNOWN UNIVERSE ON THIS MAP.
I'VE STUDIED THE MULTIVERSE FOR YEARS. AND THAT'S ALL THERE IS. THERE'S NOWHERE ELSE FOR IT TO COME FROM.
IS THERE?
NO.
UNLESS...
SPHERE
CHAOS
NIGHTMARE
...IT CAME FROM HERE.
FLIP
A DARK MULTIVERSE.

ALL I SEE IS THE BACK OF A MAP.
UNTIL RECENTLY, THAT'S ALL ANY OF US SAW. EVERYONE BELIEVED THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF REALITY WERE MATTER AND ANTI-MATTER. BUT NOT LONG AGO, ASTRONOMERS DISCOVERED A THIRD MATERIAL.
AND THE SCARY THING IS, IT TURNS OUT DARK MATTER AND DARK ENERGY ACTUALLY MAKE UP THE GREAT MAJORITY OF OUR UNIVERSE. THIS STUFF WE CAN'T SEE OR FEEL.
SO NOW LOOK AT THE MAP AND IMAGINE Nth METAL CONNECTING US TO A REALM MUCH OLDER AND MUCH VASTER THAN OURS. AN OCEANIC, SUBCONSCIOUS REALM OUR TINY MULTIVERSE FLOATS ON.
IF THIS IS TRUE, IT WOULD CHANGE EVERYTHING WE KNOW ABOUT EVERYTHING.
WHAT PROOF DO YOU HAVE?
PROOF? HA. YOU SOUND LIKE I DID. CARTER SENT A TEAM TO PROVE ME WRONG. THE ENTIRE MOUNTAIN WAS RIPPED OUT OF REALITY. THE LAST TRANSMISSIONS WE GOT FROM THEM WERE SCREAMS.
SCREAMS ABOUT WHOLE WORLDS OF NIGHTMARE, OF EVIL.
PLEAS TO SHUT THE DOOR, AND NEVER OPEN IT AGAIN.
AND A WARNING FROM RED TORNADO JUST BEFORE WE LOST CONTACT. A WARNING ABOUT A...THING DOWN THERE. HE CALLED IT A "GREAT DRAGON." A BEAST THAT PROWLED THE DARK. AND A NAME.
WHAT NAME?
CARTER HAD A JOURNAL, BATMAN...IT'S BEEN LOST EVER SINCE HE FOLLOWED THE CHALLENGERS INTO THE DARK.
BUT I SEARCHED THE CLUES HE LEFT HERE. AND WHAT I FOUND IS RECORD OF A BEAST SEEN IN VISIONS, TRANSMISSIONS THROUGH HIGH METALS. AN ORIGINAL BEING. MATTER. ANTIMATTER. AND NOW DARKNESS.
I'VE FOUND MANY NAMES FOR IT IN HISTORY. A DARK-HORNED GOD OF NIGHTMARE. OF CURSED STORIES. I SEE IT HIDDEN IN OTHER DEITIES. SET. LORD OF THE RABISU. ALL PRAYED TO THROUGH METALS BY THE DARK TRIBE, ENEMY OF THE BIRDS.
THE MODERN NAME COMES FROM THE WORDS BARBARUS AND AES. FOREIGN METAL.
BARBATOS.

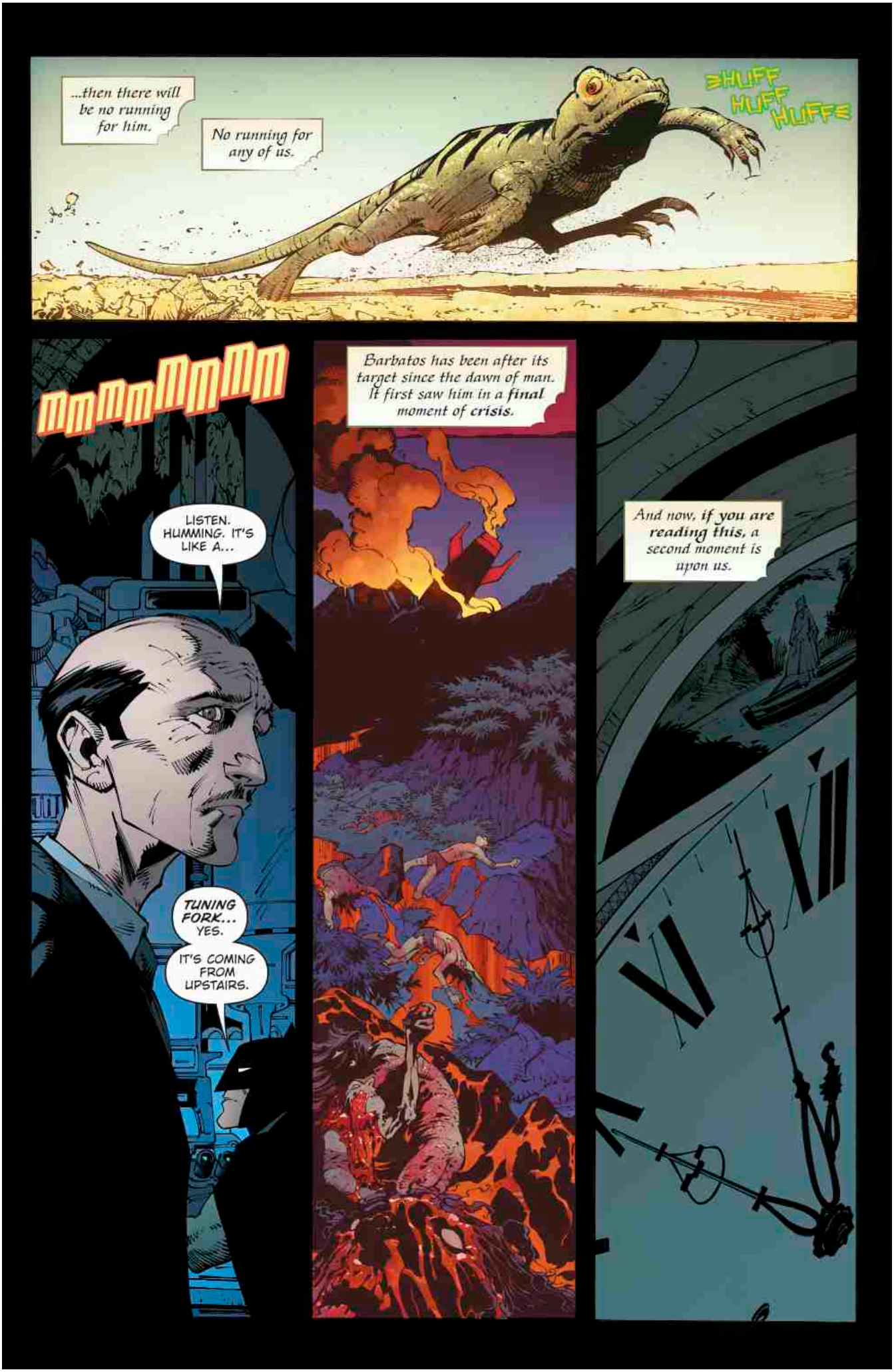
BARBATOS...
LEGEND IS IT COMES HERE THROUGH A HUMAN DOORWAY, SOMEONE TREATED WITH FIVE DIVINE METALS BY ITS FOLLOWERS. METALS OFF THE PERIODIC TABLE. A HERO WHOSE NIGHTMARES IT COLLECTS AS ITS ARMY.
SO THAT'S THE NAME. BARBATOS. HOW DO WE STOP IT?
THAT'S THE GREAT EVIL. THAT'S WHO WE'RE FIGHTING. BUT THAT'S NOT THE NAME I WOULDN'T SPEAK BEFORE.
BECAUSE I FOUND ANOTHER WORD THAT CAME UP OVER AND OVER WITH MENTIONS OF BARBATOS. A TRAVELING VESSEL. REFERENCES TO THE WAGON THAT WOULD CARRY THE BEAST HERE.
WAGON. THE ROOT OF THE NAME...
...WAYNE."
BATMAN. THE ONE WHO WILL LET HIM IN.
HANG ON. YOUR THEORY IS THAT A BEING AS OLD AS THE UNIVERSE HAS BEEN TARGETING BATMAN FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS FROM A DARK MULTIVERSE.
PLEASE TELL ME THIS ISN'T WHAT YOU'VE BEEN INVESTIGATING.
...
I'M SORRY, BATMAN, BUT AFTER CARTER'S MISTAKE, I DESTROYED MY WINGS AND DEVOTED MY LIFE TO ENDING NTH METAL.
IT'S MY MISSION. AND NOW TODAY, CHALLENGERS' MOUNTAIN APPEARS ON YOUR HOME TURF WITH--
THE DOOR!
YOU OPENED THE DOOR!

I WARNED YOU!
HE'S COMING! HE'S COMING FOR US ALL!
BATMAN. HE MUST HAVE TRIGGERED RED TORNADO. ALL TO...
THE NTH METAL! WHERE IS IT?!
LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT...
...YOU BROUGHT US HERE, DID ALL THIS, SO YOU COULD TRAP BATMAN?
THAT WAS YOUR PLAN?!
YOU OBVIOUSLY DON'T KNOW HIM VERY WELL. GUY PROBABLY HAD A RIDE READY THE MOMENT WE LANDED HERE.
AND I CAN PROMISE YOU...

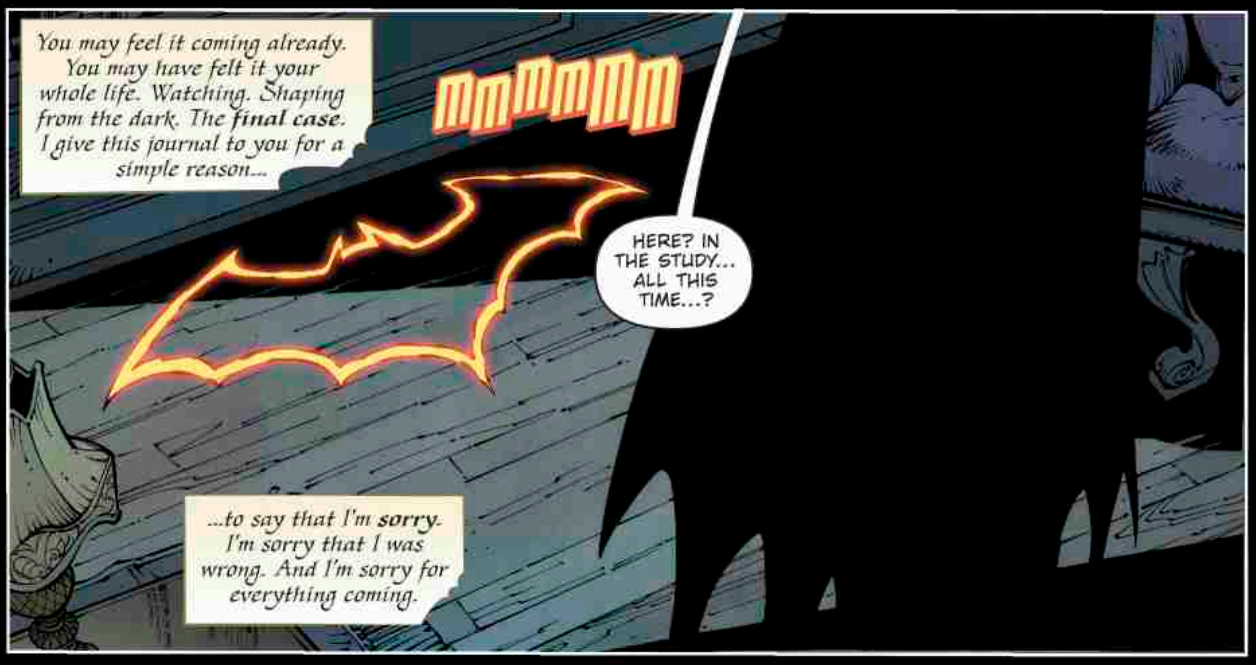

"...IT'S SOMETHING STATE OF THE ART."
SCREEE!
QUIET, BOY, QUIET!
ALFRED. I GOT WHAT I CAME FOR. READY THE HYPER SUB...
I told you how it began, this story. Now let me tell you how it'll end.
How it'll end if I'm wrong and the dark is a place of evil, as the Immortals and Kendra suspect.
The end will begin with a **shot fired** from the dark, something to tear a hole in reality.
...FAST.

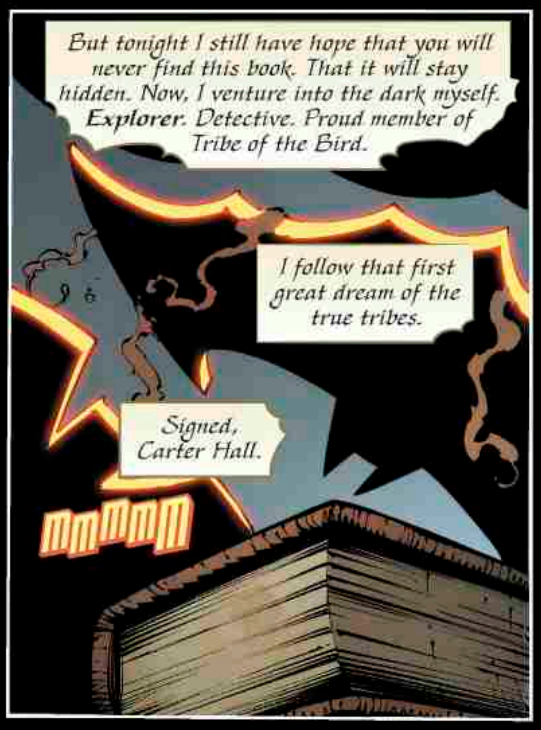

And then, as dark energy pours into this world, the visions will start. Visions to those attuned to the power of Nth Metal...
WHAT ARE THESE? THESE... PREMONITIONS?
...a glimpse of what's coming. A dark army...
WHAT IN...? I DON'T UNDERSTAND... SOMETHING GETTING... CLOSER?
!
...already on its way here.

BATCAVE.
On its way here to find the one Barbatos has been after all these years. The wagon for the dark-horned god...
...Son of the House of Wayne.
SIR, I'M BEGGING YOU, TELL THEM--
PLEASE, ALFRED. I'M TOO CLOSE TO THE ANSWERS AND WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME. THE FALSE ENERGY SIGNATURES I LEFT BEHIND WON'T FOOL THE LEAGUE FOR LONG. I NEED TO PROTECT THEM. I NEED TO PROTECT EVERYONE.
I'VE NEVER SEEN A PURE SAMPLE...NOT SINCE BEFORE THE PURGE. THE DARK ENERGY COMING THROUGH IT...INCREDIBLE. IT MUST BE WHY THE BRAALIANS WEREN'T WATCHING MONGUL. BRAAL IS HEAVILY MAGNETIC...
I IMAGINE IF WE LOOK AT PLANETS WITH HEAVY METAL CORES, WE'LL FIND THOSE DAMN SIGNS WE MISSED.
SIR, LOOK UP FROM THAT. SOMETHING'S HAPPENING...
And if Wayne has been prepared by the Judas Tribe, if the agents of Barbatos have set in motion its coming...

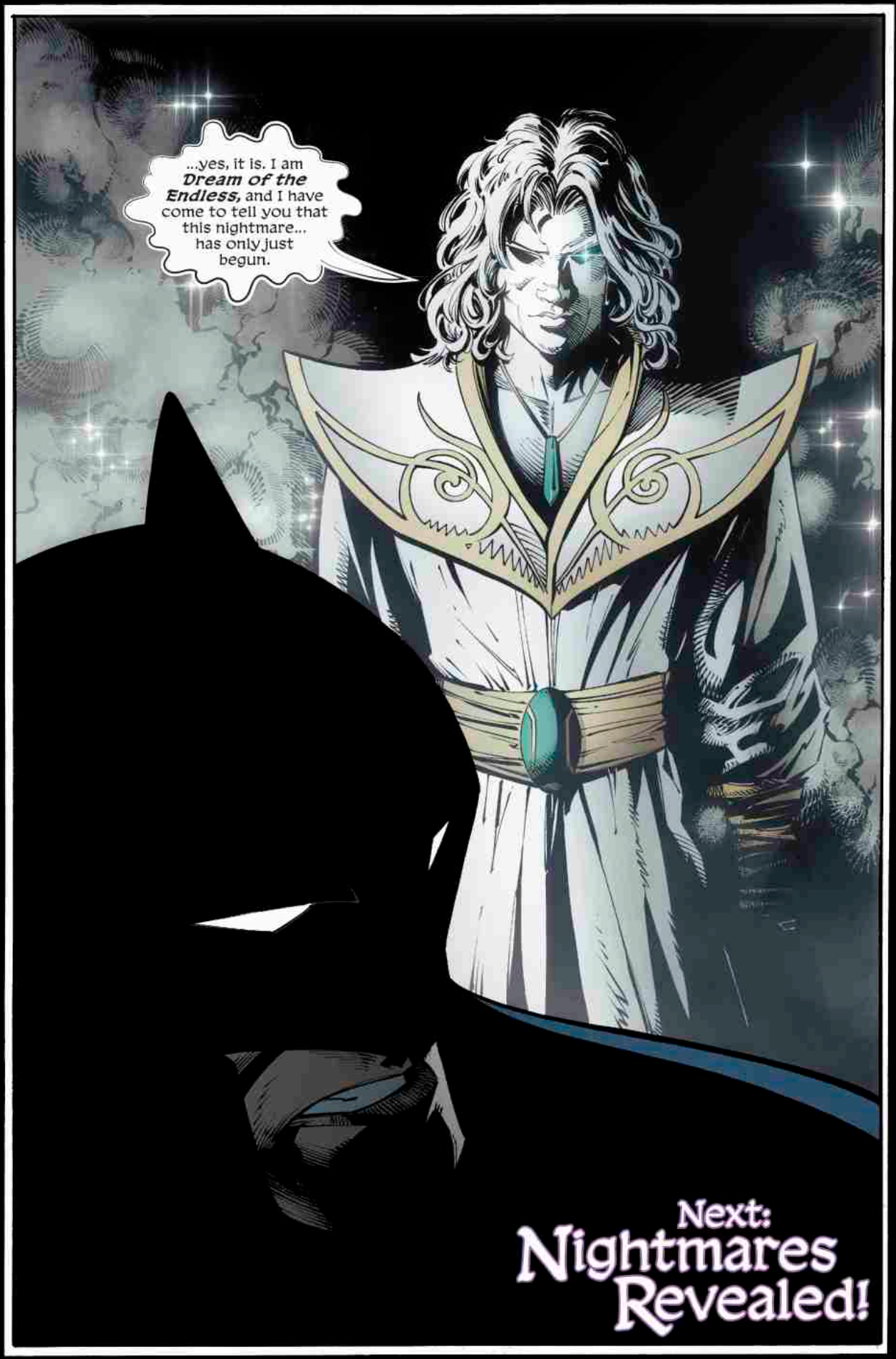

...then there will be no running for him.
No running for any of us.
HUFF HUFF HUFFF
MMMMMMM
LISTEN. HUMMING. IT'S LIKE A...
TUNING FORK... YES.
IT'S COMING FROM UPSTAIRS.
Barbatos has been after its target since the dawn of man. It first saw him in a final moment of crisis.
And now, if you are reading this, a second moment is upon us.

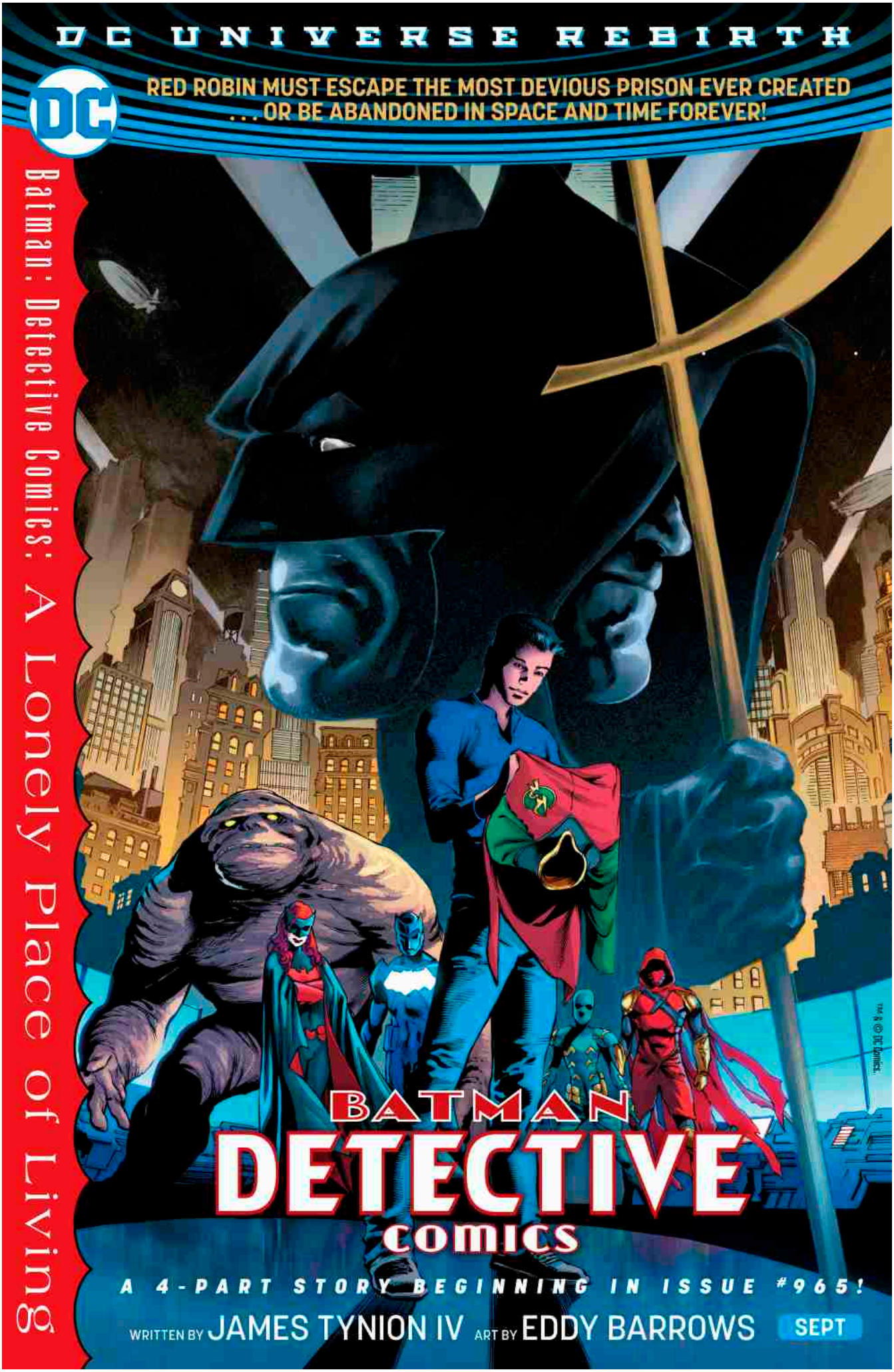
I have left this journal for **you**. In your house. The house of the family I trust most. Turned from Tribe **Bat**, to Tribe **Bird**. The **Waynes**.
Left it in a **secret place** that will make itself known to you through metal should I be wrong, should energy from the dark rise to foretell the coming of Barbatos.
MMMMMMM


You may feel it coming already. You may have felt it your whole life. Watching. Shaping from the dark. The **final case**. I give this journal to you for a simple reason...
MMMMM
HERE? IN THE STUDY... ALL THIS TIME...?
...to say that I'm **sorry**. I'm sorry that I was wrong. And I'm sorry for everything coming.


But tonight I still have hope that you will never find this book. That it will stay hidden. Now, I venture into the dark myself. **Explorer**. Detective. Proud member of Tribe of the Bird.
I follow that first great dream of the true tribes.
Signed, Carter Hall.
MMMM

THE JOURNAL OF CARTER HALL...
MY GOD, SO IT'S ALL TRUE.
Yes, Batman...


...yes, it is. I am *Dream of the Endless,* and I have come to tell you that this nightmare... has only just begun.
Next:
Nightmares Revealed!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DARK NIGHTS METAL

Here it is! The full checklist for the limited series, the one-shots and all of the tie-ins!

DARK DAYS: THE FORGE #1	6/14/17
DARK DAYS: THE CASTING #1	7/12/17
DARK NIGHTS: METAL #1	8/16/17
TEEN TITANS #12	9/13/17
DARK NIGHTS: METAL #2	9/13/17
BATMAN THE RED DEATH #1	9/20/17
NIGHTWING #29	9/20/17
BATMAN THE MURDER MACHINE #1	9/27/17
SUICIDE SQUAD #26	9/27/17
BATMAN THE DAWNBREARER #1	10/4/17
GREEN ARROW #32	10/4/17
DARK NIGHTS: METAL #3	10/11/17
BATMAN THE DROWNED #1	10/18/17
BATMAN THE MERCILESS #1	10/25/17
THE FLASH #33	10/25/17
BATMAN THE DEVASTATOR #1	11/1/17
JUSTICE LEAGUE #32	11/1/17
BATMAN LOST #1	11/8/17
HAL JORDAN & THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS #32	11/8/17
THE BATMAN WHO LAUGHS #1	11/15/17
JUSTICE LEAGUE #33	11/15/17
DARK NIGHTS: METAL #4	12/13/17
HAWKMAN FOUND #1	12/20/17
DARK NIGHTS: METAL #5	1/10/18
DARK NIGHTS: METAL #6	2/14/18

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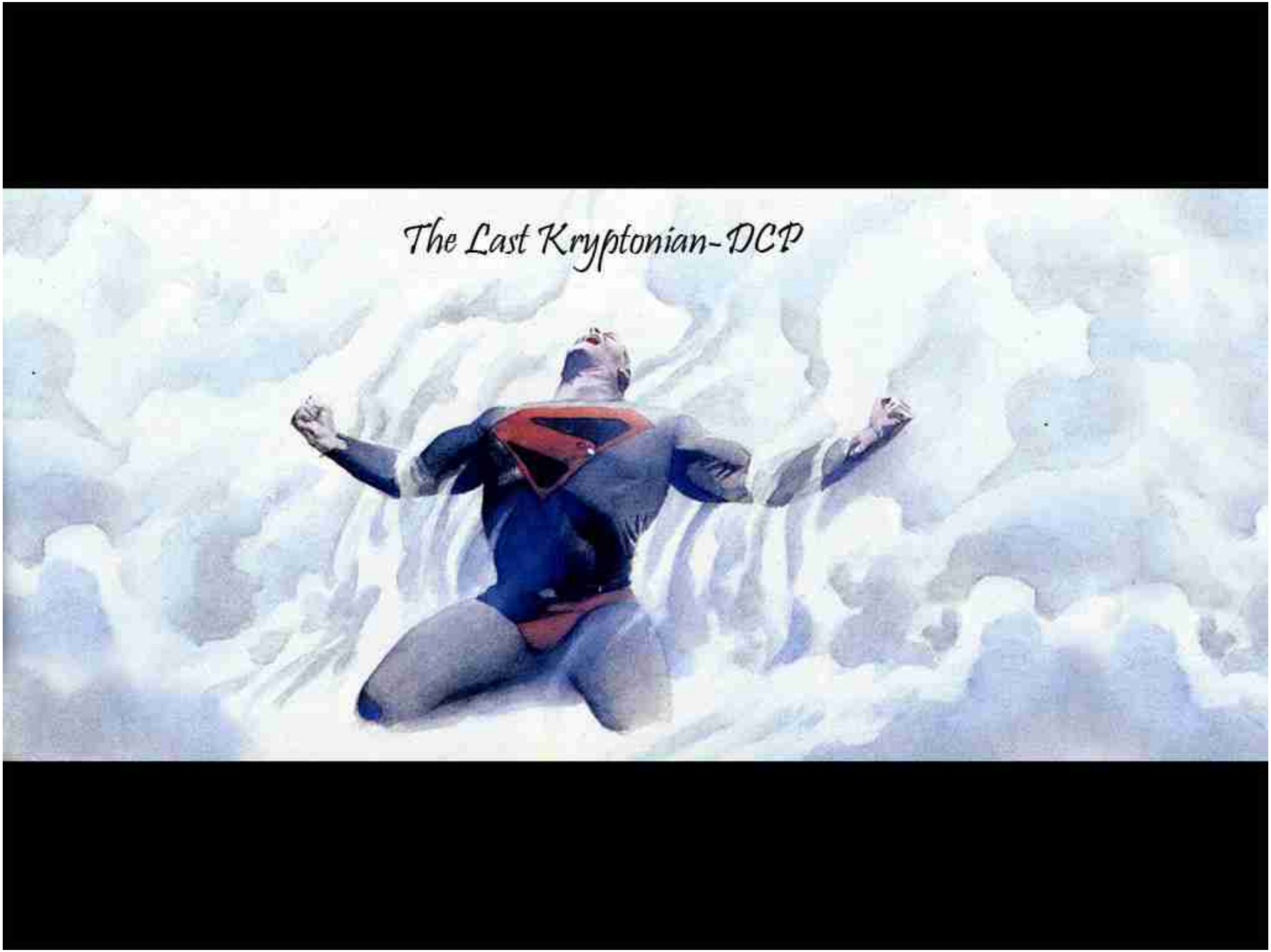
The Last Kryptonian-DCP